

environmental well-being of their land. We must give them the tools to do so.

Therefore, I welcome my colleagues and the affected parties to the clean water debate to comment on this legislation because only with substantive and constructive deliberation will the right balance between the economy and the environment be reached.

#### LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING SALE OF ALASKA POWER ADMINISTRATION

#### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to sell the Alaska Power Administration's two hydroelectric projects.

This legislation will authorize the sale of the Alaska Power Administration. The Alaska Power Administration is different from the other Federal Power Marketing Agencies of the Department of Energy. Its two hydroelectric projects, Eklutna and Snettisham, were never intended by Congress to remain indefinitely under Federal control. The Eklutna Project Act, for example, states that "Upon completion of amortization of the capital investment allocated to power, the Secretary is authorized and directed to report to the Congress upon the feasibility and desirability of transferring the Eklutna project to public ownership and control in Alaska." Moreover, these two projects were created specifically to promote economic and industrial development in Alaska, and they are not the product of a water resource management plan.

I am a strong advocate of insuring that Alaskans control their own destiny, which is what this bill is all about. It will put the management of these two hydroelectric projects into the hands of those who best know Alaska. One project will be sold to the State of Alaska, and the other will be sold to a group of three Alaskan public electric utilities.

Equally as important, this legislation will relieve the Federal Government of the expense of operating and maintaining these two projects. It also provides for the termination of the Alaska Power Administration once the sale is complete, further saving money for taxpayers.

It is important to note that this legislation provides necessary safeguards for the environment. It requires the State of Alaska and the Eklutna purchasers to abide by the memorandum of agreement they entered into regarding the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife. The legislation makes this legally enforceable.

Last year a similar provision was included in the H.R. 300, the Re-inventing Government package and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 2383, the Alaska Power Administration Sale Authorization Act. The administration testified in strong support of this legislation. Unfortunately, there was little time to consider them late in the session. With early introduction this Congress, I am hopeful that we will see this legislation enacted into law.

There is one provision which needs to be included in the Alaska Power Administration legislation before it is sent to the President for

signature, but I have not included it because it addresses the Internal Revenue Code. I hope to have that issue addressed in other legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITIZENS OF MARFA, TX

#### HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today to pay a tribute to the citizens of Marfa, TX for their courage and commitment in the face of adversity. Recently, the community suffered a tremendous loss when an important, historical building on Marfa's main street was devastated by fire.

For more than half a century, the old building was part of Marfa's landscape. At the time of the fire, the city hall, the police department and emergency medical services were located in the building. It also housed most of Marfa's important records. Not only did the fire ruin these important offices and documents, but it also destroyed a piece of the town's history.

Although most of you have never been to Marfa, you might recall the town as the setting of the famous silver-screen classic, "Giant." One of the landmarks from the movie, the Palace Theater, also suffered extensive smoke and water damage. However, the destruction this fire caused hasn't slowed the town down one bit.

The fire occurred even as Marfa was preparing for a big spring festival celebrating "Giant." Yet, instead of letting the fire ruin their celebration, the citizens of Marfa have pulled together to repair and restore the Palace Theater in time for the May event.

Since the fire, the town has pretty much returned to business as usual, although that business is being taken care of in temporary offices. This would not have been possible without the outpouring of help and generosity from so many Marfa citizens. Special thanks goes to Marfa Mayor Fritz Kahl, whose leadership and determination helped the folks of Marfa pull together to get through this sad situation. In addition, such people as County Judge Jake Brisbin Jr., Glenn Garcia, Abe Gonzalez, David and Ellen Kimble, Judy Ledbetter, Charles Mertz, Teryn Muench, Floyd Neal, Carolyn and Bill Renfro, Blaine Shuffield, Rusty Taylor and many others have made this situation a lot more bearable for the town. The services offered by the Big Bend Regional Medical Center and the Marfa Border Patrol Sector were also very helpful.

And the generosity didn't stop at the Marfa City limits. Folks from other west Texas towns came to lend a helping hand and bring extra emergency equipment. Firefighters from Alpine, Fort Stockton, and Fort Davis valiantly fought the blaze right alongside the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department. The spirit of comradery in west Texas is unmatched.

I salute the citizens of Marfa for preserving their history and protecting their future. Although a fire destroyed documents and a historical building, it could never shatter the spirit of pride and optimism which runs deep in the hearts of Texans.

#### THE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION ACT

#### HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring my colleagues' attention to a growing threat to our national security—our increased reliance on foreign oil. Last year, for the first time in the history of our Nation, we imported over half the oil that we consumed. By the year 2010, the Department of Energy [DOE] estimates that imports could make up as much as 60 percent of our Nation's petroleum needs.

While imports are rising, U.S. oil production is on a drastic decline. Crude oil production in 1994 averaged 6.6 million barrels per day, in comparison to the 6.8 million barrels per day in 1993—this represents one of the lowest oil production levels in the history of our country. Oil prices continue to fluctuate and natural gas prices are on a steady decline.

The truth is, that it's just plain tough for domestic oil and gas producers to operate in today's market. The cost of operation, high taxes, and costly environmental regulations make it difficult to continue to drill for oil and gas. It's time for us to start paying attention and provide some relief and incentives for the American energy industry. Everyone talks a good game about "America first" \* \* \* "buy American products" \* \* \* "hire American labor" \* \* \* and I agree. But, those same people don't seem to have a problem pouring foreign gasoline in our American cars.

Earlier today I, along with Representatives COBURN, BREWSTER, ISTOOK, LARGENT, and WATTS, introduced a plan that would help boost domestic production and lessen our reliance on foreign oil. The Domestic Oil and Gas Production and Preservation Act, would provide tax incentives for new and marginal well production; relief from burdensome Federal regulations; and would abolish existing bans on the export of U.S. crude oil. This bill will put people back to work, boost revenues, and help make the domestic oil and gas industry more competitive in world markets.

According to a recent investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this bill is needed now more than ever. The Commerce investigation, conducted under the Trade Expansion Act, apparently determined that increased oil imports could impair the national security of the United States. The Trade Expansion Act requires the President to respond to the report within 90 days of the Commerce Department's findings. It is imperative that Congress and the President take action to alleviate this threat to our national security.

Many of my colleagues will turn a blind eye to this report. However, I believe it is a warning signal that we must not ignore. This is not just an oil State problem, the energy crisis is a national concern that everyone should be worried about.

U.S. marginal wells—or low-income wells—are particularly at risk. Most people don't understand that each time a marginal well is plugged, jobs are lost and we increase our reliance on foreign oil and run the risk of losing one of our Nation's natural resources forever. Plugging a well is like shutting down a small